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Application No. 10/727,242

July 5, 2007

Preliminary Amendment Accompanying Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

Remarks

Pending Claims 1, 2, 3-11, 21-26 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Norman* (USPN 5,236,234) in view of *Mehta* (US Patent No. 5,319,522).

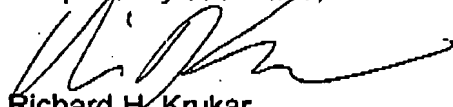
In response to the Office action, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 10, and 21 to contain the limitation that the molded component is integrated with the latch mechanism which is supported by paragraph 11 of the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinct over the references and are in allowable form. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit the favorable consideration of their application, and respectfully request that it be passed to issue in its present condition.

Should the Examiner discern any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of the aforementioned claims that might be resolved or overcome with the aid a telephone conference, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,



7/5/07

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